The Compound

by S.A. Bodeen

**Dystopian Fiction Characters**

**Dystopian Protagonist**

In a dystopia, the **protagonist** is often the character who feels out of place, is ostracized for some reason, or who realizes the issues of their society and dares to speak up about it. However, a secondary character may also introduce these ideas to the protagonist. These characters are rarely in positions of power and often start out as ordinary citizens who can easily be replaced. The trick with these characters is not to make them [preachy](http://thewritingcafe.tumblr.com/post/63018183636/hi-i-want-to-write-a-short-story-involving-social) when they speak out about certain societal aspects.

The **antagonist** is most often a character or a central power of some kind. However, the antagonist can be both thus making more than one antagonist.

**Other common dystopian characters and archetypes include:**

* **The Reluctant Citizen** (often the protagonist) - a character who is a typical citizen, but who finds faults in the society.
* **The Faithful Citizen** - a character who is a typical citizen and who is faithful to the society
* **The Law Enforcer** - a faithful citizen(s) or authority character(s) who acts as a lesser antagonist by enforcing societal norms and laws
* **The Catalyst** - a character who helps the protagonist have an epiphany about the society and turn against it.
* **The Outcast** - a character, sometimes the protagonist, who is a nonconformist whether by choice or not
* **The Tyrant/Dictator/Leader** - the central power

Adapted from: The characteristics of dystopian society in literature from the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)

And <http://nimblesnotebook.tumblr.com/post/63060908609/the-dystopian-society>

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**Dystopian Fiction Characters – The Protagonist**

**Below are the common characteristics of the protagonist in dystopian fiction. Analze the text regarding Eli and decide if that is true of him.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **The Compound**  **Dystopian Protagonist – Eli Yankakis** | | | | |
| **Characteristic** | **True of Eli?** | **Text Evidence** | | |
| Questions the existing social and political systems |  | Pg#\_\_\_ | Pg#\_\_\_ | Pg#\_\_\_ |
| Believes or feels that something is terribly wrong with the society in which he or she lives |  | Pg#\_\_\_ | Pg#\_\_\_ | Pg#\_\_\_ |
| Feels trapped and is struggling to escape |  | Pg#\_\_\_ | Pg#\_\_\_ | Pg#\_\_\_ |
| Helps the reader recognize the negative aspects of the dystopian world through his or her perspective |  | Pg#\_\_\_ | Pg#\_\_\_ | Pg#\_\_\_ |

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**Dystopian Fiction Characters**

**Below is a list of common archetype characters found in dystopian fiction. Analyze the text to determine if that archetype is present, and who it is if so.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dystopian Archetype Characters | | | |
| Archetype | In The Compound? | Character | Text Evidence |
| The **Reluctant Citizen** (often the protagonist) - a character who is a typical citizen, but who finds faults in the society. |  |  | Pg#\_\_\_ |
| The **Faithful Citizen** - a character who is a typical citizen and who is faithful to the society. |  |  |  |
| The **Law Enforcer** - a faithful citizen(s) or authority character(s) who acts as a lesser antagonist by enforcing societal norms and laws. |  |  |  |
| The **Catalyst** - a character who helps the protagonist have an epiphany about the society and turn against it. |  |  |  |
| The **Outcast** - a character, sometimes the protagonist, who is a nonconformist whether by choice or not. |  |  |  |
| The **Leader Tyrant/Dictator**/ - the central power. |  |  |  |

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